# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

| Assessor's Number | USGS Quad | Area(s) | Form Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9-250 | ORLEANS | | EAS.101 |

**Town/City:** Town of Eastham

**Place:** *(neighborhood or village)*:
North Eastham/Nauset

**Address:** 1675 Nauset Road

**Historic Name:** Richard C. & Margaret Collins House

**Uses:** Present: single-family residence

Original: multiple-family residence

**Date of Construction:** 1915-1921

**Source:** deeds, vital records, censuses

**Style/Form:** Summer Cottage

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**
Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**
none

**Major Alterations** *(with dates)*:
none

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

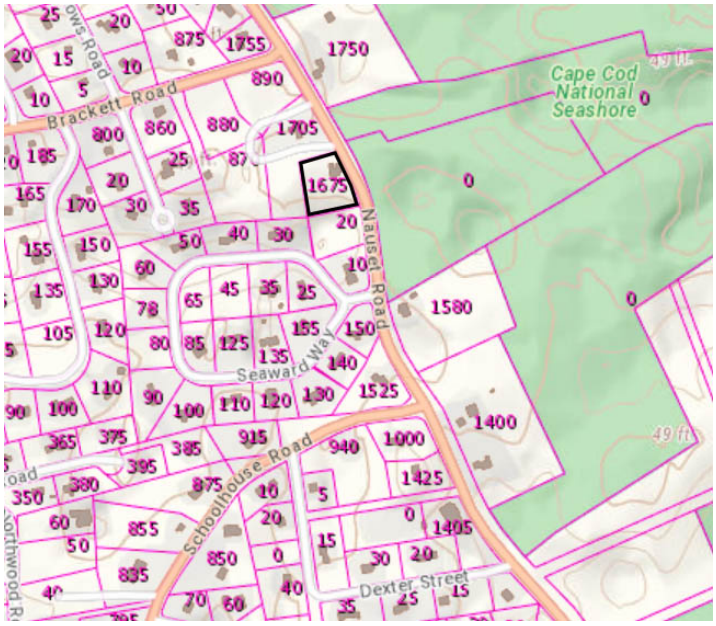
**Acreage:** 0.80

**Setting:** Located on a historic rural road backing up on a dense late-20th-century residential subdivision. Open space of National Seashore is across the street.

## Photograph

View from NE.

## Locus Map (north at top)




Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

**Recorded by:** Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

**Organization:** Eastham Historical Commission

**Date**: June 2020

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Richard C. & Margaret Collins House, built 1915-1921, is a two-story wood frame hipped block with two hipped-roof wings on the front (east) and north sides. Portions of an earlier building on the site may survive inside the house, although this has not been confirmed by an interior inspection. The front wing of the house contains paired windows on the first story and a single window on the second. A one-story hipped ell on the north side of the front wing contains entrances and windows on the front and north sides. A chimney located between the one- and two-story sections, the two entrances and a pair of windows positioned high on the north wall suggest this appendage to contain both the main entry and the kitchen. The north wing has windows on both stories and an entrance on the north end suggesting that it represents a second dwelling unit. The main hipped block is visible on its southeast corner, which has a symmetrical arrangement of windows and the west elevation, which has two windows widely-spaced near the corners on both levels. A two-story hipped bay window is located on the south end of the center block.

The house is situated in a clearing covering most of its lot. There are no outbuildings.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

It has been reputed that a part of the house at 1675 Nauset Road was built about 1766, when Nathan Doane (1742-96) married Eunice Snow of Eastham. Nathan was a son of Jonathan Doane (1702-80), and his older brother Sylvanus (1740-1813) had married Phebe Mayo five years earlier and settled at what is now numbered 1400 Nauset Road (EAS.99). A number of members of the Eastham Doane family moved to inland Massachusetts towns and further afield, Nathan among them: he, his wife, and their three children moved to Brookfield in Worcester County in 1794 and sold their house, barn, corn house, and blacksmith shop "near the Nausett Road" on its west side to Michael Collins of Truro for three hundred pounds.[1] The property has remained in the Collins family since that year; whether portions of Nathan and Phebe Doane's house exist remains a question.

Master mariner Michael Collins (1754-1828) was a native of Truro and the son of Benjamin and Jerusha Stevens Collins. He was a fourth-generation descendant of Joseph Collins (1632-1724), who was living in Eastham by 1672 when he married Ruth Knowles. In 1784 Michael Collins married Elizabeth Atkins (1757-1833) in Eastham and probably moved from Truro when he bought Nathan Doane's homestead. In 1798 he was taxed on four buildings in Eastham, and in 1800 he was clearly listed in this neighborhood in a household of nine persons. Collins and his wife had seven children—Betsey Atkins, Permelia, James Hervey, Michael Jr., Benjamin Henry Adams, and Richard—between 1785 and 1800. Betsey and Richard both died before they turned thirty, and the brothers Michael (1793-1886) and B. H. A. (1799-1878) were long associated with the 1675 Nauset Road property.

In 1817 Michael Collins Jr. married Dorcas Doane Cobb (1797-1855), and the 1820 census lists both Michael Collins Sr. and Jr. in this Nauset neighborhood. Undocumented local history states that the house was a tavern and stage stop from bout 1800 to 1825.[2] Michael Sr. died in 1828, and in the 1830 Eastham census the households of Michael Collins, Benjamin H. A. Collins (who married Sarah Harding in 1820), and the widowed Elizabeth Atkins Collins were listed consecutively. Elizabeth Collins died in 1833, and in 1840 sons Michael and Benjamin H. A. were in consecutive households. Which occupied 1675 Nauset Road at that time is not clear, and in 1850 the census still enumerated the households one after the other; later deeds indicate that they jointly owned the property. Michael Collins is shown as a farmer with $845 in real property and living with his wife and five of their eleven children; next door was "Henry B. A." Collins with $476 in real estate in a household with his wife, younger daughters Melinda and Lucy, and a boarder. The 1858 map shows the Michael Collins family at 1675 Nauset Road and brother Benjamin at Nauset Light, where he was keeper from 1838 to 1865; the brothers are said to have helped select the location for the lighthouse. The map shows only one house on or near the site of 1675 Nauset Road, which suggests, as later deeds document, that the brothers occupied parts of the same house.

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[1] Nathan Doane to Michael Collins, Truro, 8 December 1794, BCD 999041:98. See also Alfred Alder Doane, comp., *The Doane Family: Deacon John Doane, of Plymouth. . .* (Boston: Alfred Alder Doane, 1902), 103.
[2] See MHC building form for EAS.101, August 1995. This tradition also holds that the house was "alluded to" in Edward A. Kendall, *Travels through the Northern Parts of the United States in the Years 1807 and 1808* (New York 1809), but this has not been verified.

The 1860 census lists the Michael Collins household after that of Sylvanus Doane (1400 Nauset Road). He then owned $1200 in real estate and lived with his daughters Betsey and Mary; in the next household was daughter Lucinda, her husband Lewis Lombard, a master mariner, and their two children.[3] By 1865 Michael Collins was described as the lighthouse keeper, and he shared the house with shoemaker Crowell Doane, pauper Sally Doane, and mariner Jesse Doane, who that year married Benjamin H. A. Collins's daughter Lucy. That couple was shown next door to Michael Collins in the 1870 census, when he had $1172 in real estate. By 1880 he moved to another part of North Eastham to live with daughter Lucinda Collins Lombard, and in 1886 he died at the home of another married daughter in Quincy. He was ninety-two years old. Collins had served the town of Eastham as selectman, assessor, and representative to the General court, and he had also been a Barnstable County commissioner for six years.

In March 1873 Michael Collins sold his half of the property (and house) to Nathan A. Gill Jr., who three years later sold his half of the dwelling house and about a quarter-acre of land to Benjamin H. A. Collins. Collins died in 1878, and the next year two of his married daughters deeded their two-thirds' share of the 1675 Nauset Road property to their brother-in-law Thomas Mayo, who had married their sister Melinda in 1856.[4] The 1880 Eastham map attaches the name "T. Mayo" to the property. Mayo, the son of Freeman and Bathsheba Mayo of Eastham, was a mariner earlier in his life but a farmer by 1880, and he and his wife shared the household with their daughter Ellen L., born in 1861. Mayo died of a brain injury in 1889, and Melinda Collins Mayo and her daughter moved to Orleans, where they worked as seamstresses.

In 1899 Melinda and Ellen Mayo sold the Michael Collins-Nathan A. Gill Jr. (east) half of the 1675 Nauset Road house and property to George Henry Collins, the youngest son of Michael Collins and then a merchant in Oakland, California. In 1906 George Collins and his wife Augusta sold the same property to Frank S. Collins as trustee for Richard C. Collins of Malden.[5] Frank Shipley Collins (1848-1920) was the son of Joshua Cobb Collins (1820-55), another son of Michael and Dorcas Collins and a tin plate worker and stove dealer living in Charlestown by the mid-1840s. Joshua Collins married Elizabeth Ann Carter in Charlestown in 1846 and died of typhoid in 1855. His widow and her three children moved to Malden to live with her father Joseph Carter by 1865. Frank Collins was a bookkeeper when he married Anna Lendrum Holmes of Chelsea in 1875, and he lived in Malden with his mother's family probably from that time through the mid-1890s. He and his wife had two sons—Frank S. Jr., born in 1882, and Richard Carter, born in 1887. By the early 1890s he was working for Boston Rubber Shoe Company, first as a shipping clerk and later as office manager; he worked for the company for more than thirty years, retired in 1913, and returned as an efficiency consultant during the First World War. He also became an expert on American algae, his interest in it having been triggered by seeing sea mosses attached to cards and sold to seaside tourists. He published numerous essays and in 1918 published his book *The Green Algae of North America*; he also did much of the work in assembling, sorting, labeling and designing the forty-six bound volumes of dried North America algae for the Phycotheca Boreali-Americana (1912-17).[6]

In 1908 Frank Collins and his wife were reported to be in North Eastham "for the holidays" in April and "at the 'old Collins homestead" at various times between 1908 and 1913. The 1914 Malden directory stated that Frank Collins had "removed to Eastham," and in 1915, when his son Richard was twenty-eight years old, he transferred title to the property to him.[7] The heirs of B. H. A. Collins sold the west half of 1675 Nauset Road to neighbor Emma B. Brown in 1897 and 1900; in 1921 Brown sold it to realtor Lena S. Steele, then living in Orleans, and Steele sold it three months later to Richard C. Collins.[8] It is likely that the

[3] In 1860, Michael and Dorcas Collins's sons James H. Collins and William F. Collins, both masons in Roxbury, deeded to their uncle B. H. A. Collins half of the real estate that Benjamin and their father had owned together, "leaving on both sides such portions of the house as have been occupied by Benjamin H. A. Collins and Michael Collins for years past"; this deed appears to be the one that partitioned the house and land. See James H. Collins and William F. Collins, Roxbury, to Benjamin H. A. Collins, 15 December 1860, BCD 79:302.
[4] Michael Collins to Nathan A. Gill Jr., 1 March 1873, BCD 111:315; Nathan A. Gill Jr. to Benjamin H. A. Collins, 30 May 1876, BCD 125:205; Jane A. Bradford and Lucy H. Doane to Thomas Mayo, 9 June 1879, BCD 138:202. The Gill deed transferred his "dwelling house and the land under and adjoining it, which is included in the yard enclosing the same building . . . said house is connected with and adjoining to said B. H. A. Collins dwelling house."
[5] Melinda F. Mayo and Ellen L. Mayo, Orleans, to George Henry Collins, Oakland CA, 21 June 1899, BCD 236:538; George H. and Augusta J. Collins, Oakland CA, to Frank S. Collins, trustee for Richard C. Collins, Malden, 23 August 1906, BCD 280:170.
[6] Frank Collins's biography is posted on SNAC (Social Networks and Archival Context), https://snaccooperative.org/view/1924421.
[7] Frank S. Collins, trustee for Richard C. Collins, Beverly, to Richard C. Collins, 3 June 1915, BCD 351:524.
[8] Lucy H. Freeman to Jane A. Bradford, 17 June 1881, BCD 148:324; George H. Bradford, Chicago IL, to Emma B. Brown, 6 January 1897, BCD 229:5; Melinda F. Mayo, Orleans, to Emma B. Brown, 16 June 1900, BCD 245:86; Emma B. Brown to Lena S. Steele, Orleans, 9 June 1921, BCD 381:589; Lena S. Steele, Orleans, to Richard C. Collins, Wilmington DE, 28 September 1921, BCD 381:590.

*Continuation sheet 2*

present house would not have been considered the "old Collins homestead" and so was built for Richard C. Collins between 1915 and 1921. Perhaps fragments of the old house will be found extant within.

Richard C. Collins was a mechanical engineer and was living with his wife Margaret and two young children in Wilmington, Delaware, by 1920. By 1930 the family had moved to Newton, where Collins was a woolen mill engineer, and between 1936 and 1942 the family had moved again, to Ridgewood, New Jersey, and Collins was an engineer for Botany Worsted Mills in nearby Passaic.

By 1996 both Richard and Margaret Collins had died, and their daughters Alice Collins Cook and Ann Collins Rode owned the property in equal shares. They transferred it to Cook's son Richard C. Cook as trustee of the Collins Family Revocable Trust in the same year. As trustee he transferred a half-interest in 1675 Nauset Road to Ann Collins Rode's two children, Margaret Rode Zubik and Walter Collins Rode, in 2013; Walter Rode released his half-share to Margaret Zubik three days later. In 2017 Zubik sold an eighth interest to Christina Collins Madrid. Town records show the Alice Collins Cook Trust was the owner of record in 2020.[9]

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[9] Alice Collins Cook and Ann Collins Rode to Richard H. Cook, trustee Collins Family Revocable Trust, Scituate, 24 October 1996, BCD 10461:45; Richard H. Cook, trustee Collins Family Revocable Trust, to Margaret Rode Zubik, Passadumkeag ME, and Wlater Collins Rode, Hartford CT, 15 December 2013, BCD 27922:180; Margaret Rode Zubik, Passadumkeag ME, and Walter Collins Rode, Hartford CT, to Margaret Rode Zubik, 18 December 2013, BCD 27922:184; Margaret Rode Zubik, Passadumkeag ME, and Walter Collins Rode, Hartford CT, to Margaret Rode Zubik, 18 December 2013, BCD 27922:184; Margaret Rode Zubik, Passadumkeag ME, to Christine Collins Madrid, Campbell CA, 15 August 2017, BCD 30722:5. See also Notice, Collins Family Revocable Trust, 9 August 2005, BCD 20177:42.

## PHOTOGRAPHS
**(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)**

View from SE.

View from NW.